



HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

REAL-TIME INDUSTRY SUMMARY

MAY 2026

2025 STATEWIDE LABOR ANALYSIS

There were over 51,000 online job postings for the Hospitality industry from January 2025 to December 2025. The top occupation was *Food Service Managers*, which made up 11.0 percent of total industry job postings for the time period.

The employers with the most job postings were Domino's, Taco Bell, Hilton Hotels, Marriott International, and Sodexo.

TOP ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

SOC Code	Description	Percent of total industry postings	Average Annual Wage
Now- requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma			
35-3023	Fast Food & Counter Workers	7.8%	\$30,810 ★
35-2021	Food Preparation Workers	6.0%	\$32,550
35-3031	Waiters & Waitresses	5.0%	\$32,790 ★
35-9011	Dining Room & Cafeteria Attendants & Bartender Helpers	3.9%	\$30,510
53-3031	Driver/Sales Workers	3.1%	\$41,980
Next- requires a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate-to long-term training			
11-9051	Food Service Managers	11.0%	\$67,150
35-1012	First-Line Supervisors of Food Preparation & Serving Workers	6.7%	\$42,640 ★
41-1011	First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	3.5%	\$48,720 ★
35-2014	Cooks, Restaurant	2.8%	\$35,730 ★
49-9071	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General	1.5%	\$51,360 ★
Later- requires a bachelor's degree or higher			
11-1021	General & Operations Managers	1.2%	\$101,060 ★
11-2022	Sales Managers	0.6%	\$122,340
13-1121	Meeting, Convention, & Event Planners	0.3%	\$55,430
13-1161	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	0.3%	\$73,810 ★
11-3013	Facilities Managers	0.3%	\$102,380

★ Denotes the top 10 occupations by total number of projected openings from 2022-2032 in Now, Next, and Later categories

EDUCATION AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Across the state, there are numerous programs in many locations that train for occupations in the Hospitality industry. To find degree and certificate programs at an educational institution near you, visit [MoSCORES](#), a tool designed to assist job seekers, students, career counselors, educators, and planners with a better understanding of training options and typical work outcomes of graduates, for traditional degree programs as well as noncredit credentials. In addition, there are U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship programs for Hospitality occupations in Missouri. Visit [Apprenticeship Missouri](#) for more information.

TOP ONLINE JOB POSTINGS

TOP 10 COMMON SKILLS

Customer Service
Communication
Management
Cleanliness
Operations
Leadership
Sales
Multitasking
Detail Oriented
Teamwork

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Several soft skills, such as Customer Service, Communication, and Leadership ranked in the top 10 common skills. Customer Service skills were requested in over two-fifths (40%) of job postings for this industry.

TOP 10 SPECIALIZED SKILLS

Restaurant Operation
Food Safety And Sanitation
Lifting Ability
Sanitation
Food Services
Cash Handling
Food Preparation
Cash Register
General Mathematics
Marketing

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Top requested specialized skills included Restaurant Operation, Food Safety and Sanitation, and Lifting Ability. Restaurant Operation was requested in nearly one-third (29%) of total job postings for this industry.

TOP 10 SOFTWARE SKILLS

R (Programming Language)
Operating Systems
Property Management Systems
Salesforce
Inventory Management System
Standard Template Library (STL)
HotSOS (Hotel Software)
Adobe Photoshop
SQL (Programming Language)
Productivity Software

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Microsoft Office and its products, such as Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Access, are the most requested software skills across all industries. Other skills requested in the Hospitality and Food Service industry include R, Operating Systems, and Property Management Systems.

TOP 10 QUALIFICATIONS

Valid Driver's License
ServSafe Certification
Food Handler's Card
Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Certification
First Aid Certification
Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Certification
Food Safety Certification
Personal Trainer Certification
Security Clearance
Commercial Driver's License (CDL)

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The top requested qualification was Valid Driver's License, followed by ServSafe, and Food Handler's Card.

Sources:

- LightCast™
- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Division of Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, 2024
- 2022-2032 Employment Projections published by Missouri Economic Research and Workforce Information Center (MERIC), 2025

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